

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

30 OCTOBER 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

1. USSR-Cuba

a. We are so far unable to verify Kuznetsov's assertion that the Soviets have begun to dismantle their missile bases in Cuba.

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b. We have not yet seen all of yesterday's photography. Pictures in hand are of poor quality and do not prove anything one way or another.

c. The Soviets have the shipping available in Cuba to start moving out military equipment with the exception of the missiles themselves. Their water lift now in Cuban ports consists of one passenger and thirteen cargo ships.

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e. Moscow yesterday gave short shrift to Castro's "five points." They were published, but that was all.

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2. Cuba

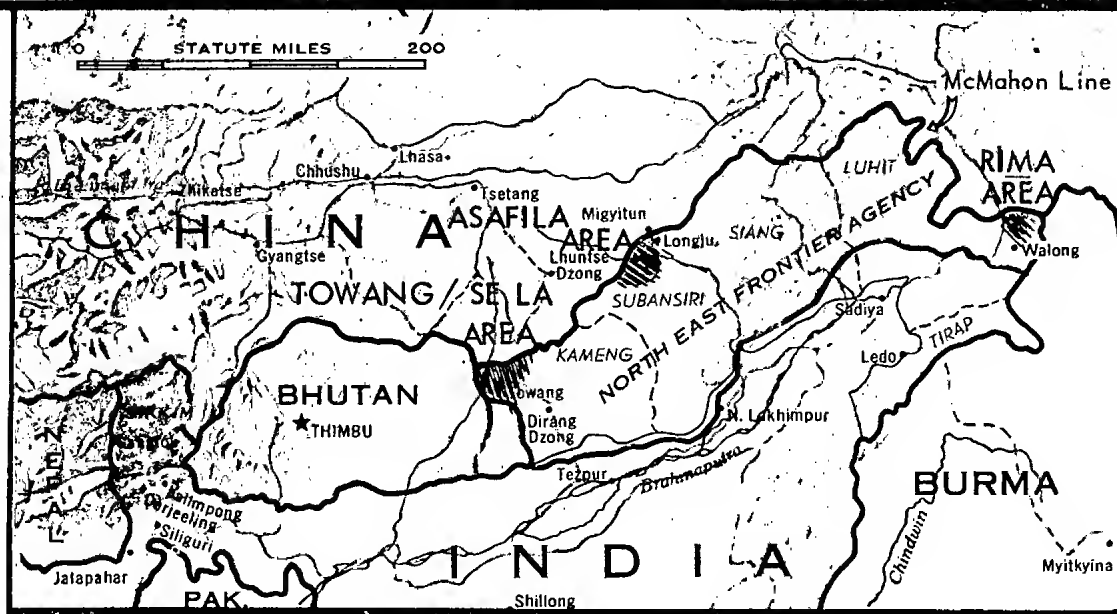
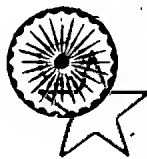
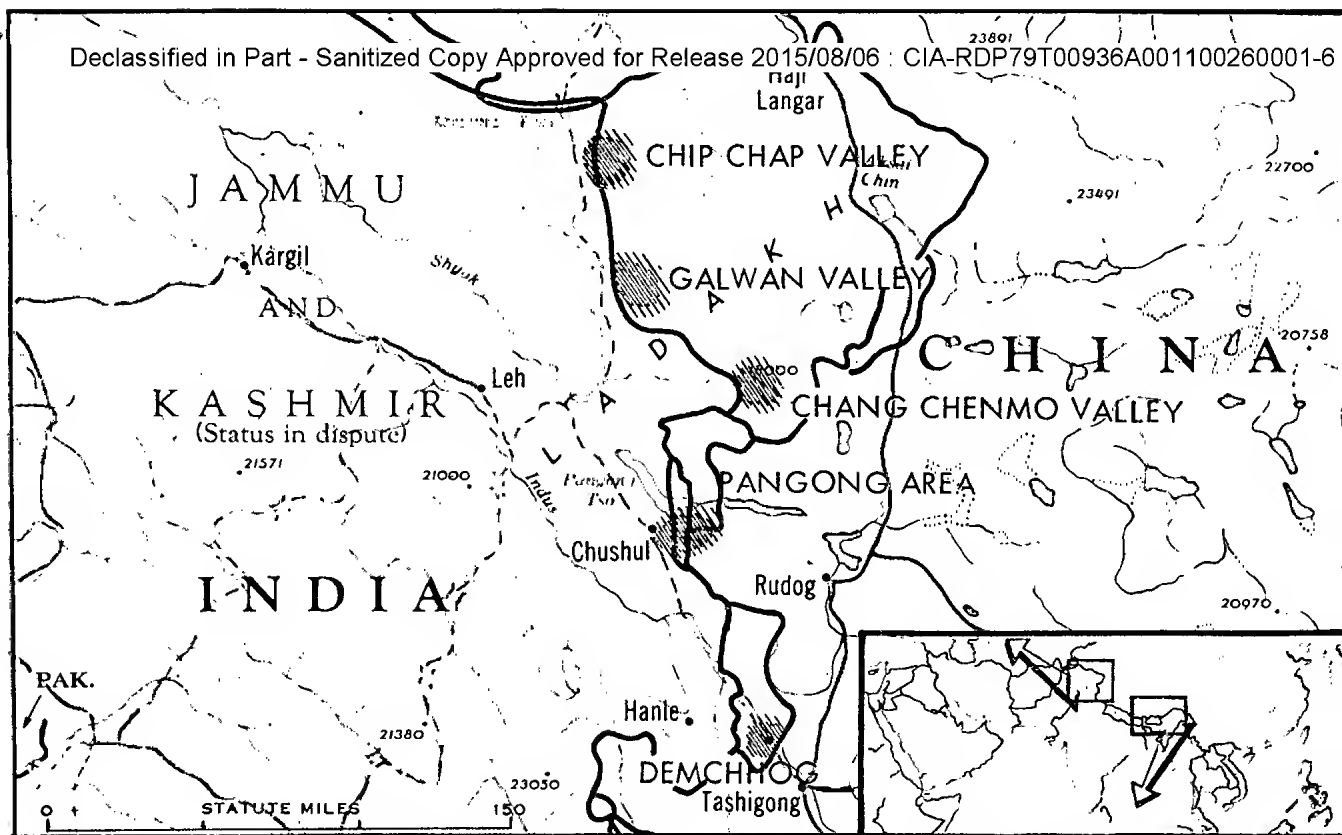
a. Havana yesterday promised to stay on its best behavior during U Thant's visit, which begins today.

b. The Cubans, having trouble keeping down that empty feeling of being left high and dry, are bending ears wherever they can to get in their say about the dismantling of the missile bases. U Thant's group is bound to hear a lot about the need to sell the US on accepting Castro's "five point guarantee" against aggression before the missiles go.

c. We are seeing indications, however, that the Cuban regime is willing to settle for a great deal less. We are, in fact, getting the impression that Castro and his henchmen will be happy to get out of their jam still holding office.

d. Meanwhile, some Cuban exiles, such as the Alpha 66 group, are saying they intend to go on fighting no matter what as long as Fidel Castro stays in the saddle.

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- Areas Chinese have occupied since 20 October
- Boundary shown on recent Chinese Communist maps (Where differing from US and Western maps)
- Boundary shown on recent India maps
- Boundary shown on most US and Western maps
- Road or track
- 21020 Spot height (in feet)

3. Communist
China - Cuba

Peiping's first reaction to Moscow's Cuban retreat was a one-paragraph factual report in the bottom corner on the third page of yesterday's People's Daily. The Chinese, it seems, are also muttering about a "Soviet Munich."

4. Bloc military
posture

We have not detected anything unusual in bloc military activities in the past 24 hours.

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5. India-
China

a. The pattern of the Communist advance in Ladakh suggests that Peiping's objective is to occupy territory shown to be Chinese on its maps.

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b. Chinese forces yesterday captured the village of Demchhog in southern Ladakh. This puts them in possession of just about all the real estate they claim in the Ladakh sector of the border. It remains to be seen whether they will press on, but farther north they have marked time, once they reached the outer limits of the territory they say belongs to them.

(Cont'd)

c. In the Northeast Frontier Agency, the battle for the Se La pass has not yet been joined. [redacted]

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[redacted] the Chinese have in mind catching the Indians from behind by outflanking them to the east.

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d. It is too early to say at what point the Chinese might stop in this area; they are still a good distance away from where they say the boundary ought to be. [redacted]

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e. On Sunday, Nehru [redacted]

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[redacted] once again putting it on the line that negotiations were out of the question until the Chinese agreed to pull back to the positions they held on 8 September.

f. India, however, may settle for less. Its ambassador at the UN is putting neutrals up to asking U Thant to issue an appeal to India and China to restore the status quo ante bellum. If this doesn't work, he suggests an effort be made to get Thant to offer his good offices to promote a settlement. [redacted]

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6. Laos

a. The Pathet Lao, taking its cue from what Premier Pham Van Dong told Souvanna in Hanoi last week, is now saying there are no objections to the ICC coming into its territory to see if Vietnamese troops are anywhere around. All well and good, but the Communists also say the ICC must first give prior notice of precisely where it wants to go, identify the Vietnamese units alleged to be there, and come up with the name of their commanding officers.

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b. Souvanna is going to Khang Khay sometime this week presumably to be on hand when Souphannouvong returns.

c. The Soviet airlift is as active as ever. It has been making 40 to 50 flights to all parts of Laos every week.

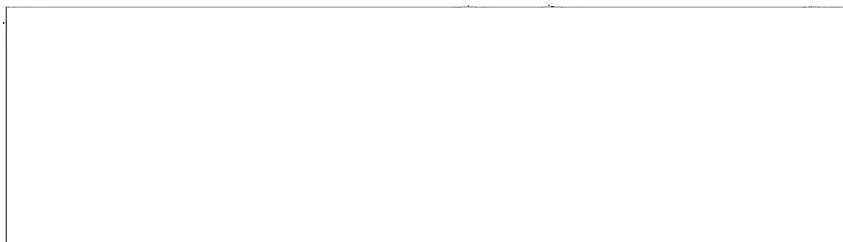
d. In Bangkok, Sarit has reacted to Phoumi's call for help in getting Chinese Nationalist troops out of Laos as something of a joke. He suggested to Ambassador Young yesterday that perhaps they ought to be sent to Cambodia or to India to fight the Chinese Communists.

7. USSR



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NOTES

A.

[REDACTED]

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- B. Venezuela President Betancourt reacted swiftly yesterday to meet the threat of sabotage head-on. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] regular army troops have been turned out in Caracas, security guards thrown around oil installations and troublesome labor leaders arrested.

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- C. Brazil/Cuba If disapproving sounds mean anything, President Goulart has sown some seeds of dissension amongst the military by sending his top military adviser on a busv-body mission to Havana to see what can be done [REDACTED]

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- D. Warsaw Pact The chief of staff post, unoccupied for five months, was filled yesterday by the appointment of Soviet Army General Pavel Batov. A much-decorated officer, Batov was once chief of the Soviet military advisory group in China and, most recently, commander of Soviet forces in Hungary.

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DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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I.

